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A SOIL SCIENCE CAREER for YOU in SCS

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATION NO. 716

Soil Conservation Service needs

Soil Scientists

for work in

Soil Classification and Mapping
Soil Investigation (Laboratory and Field)
Soil Survey Interpretation

Soil Conservation Service offers

- A variety of experience on the Nation's farms and ranches.
- Work with the country's recognized leaders in all phases of soil science.
- Advancement as you gain experience and improve your abilities.
- Opportunity to work in many different locations in the United States.

ORE–60,041

Soil Scientists Are Key Men

Soil scientists are key men in the Soil Conservation Service—the Department of Agriculture's technical arm of action for soil and water conservation.

They study soils in the field and laboratory in order to determine their physical and chemical properties; to classify them; to determine their capability; and to explain their use, productivity, and management requirements as needed in carrying on:

- A national soil and water conservation program through locally controlled soil conservation districts.
- The Federal part of the national cooperative soil survey—an inventory of the soil resources of the Nation for use in many agricultural programs, for land appraisal, for urban fringe planning, for highway and other types of construction, and for numerous other purposes.
- Watershed protection, flood prevention, and river-basin investigations.
- Flood-damage reduction in 11 major river watersheds.
- Great Plains conservation program.

An SCS Soil Scientist Is—

- A recognized authority on soils in the area in which he works.
- Able to note differences in soils, landscapes, and vegetation and to understand the significance of these differences.
- Proficient in using the tools of his profession—hand and power augers, hand levels, aerial photographs, map-making equipment, and laboratory equipment.
- Able to interpret soils information for land owners and operators and technical specialists in other fields.

See the inside pages for information on jobs soil scientists do in the Soil Conservation Service.

What SCS Soil Scientists Do

A soil scientist collects information about the soil through acre-by-acre examination. He records the information on maps and as field notes. He helps in presenting this information to land owners and operators and to technical specialists.

The information he obtains is basic to soil and water conservation and land use programs. It is widely used in agriculture and industry and by many agencies of Government, both local and national.

A beginning soil scientist starts his SCS career in soil-survey work under the close guidance and supervision of experienced men. As he becomes proficient in his job, he is given more responsibilities.

76,976

Soil Classification and Mapping

- Examining the soil to depths of several feet, noting differences in texture, structure, color, thickness, arrangement, and other features of the various soil horizons.
- Noting differences in slope, erosion, geologic formations, vegetation, and other pertinent features.
- Classifying soils in accordance with the national soil classification system into units that can be interpreted in terms of their capability.
- Comparing the soil and landscape features in one area with those described in other areas so that like soils everywhere have the same name.
- Collecting samples from the soil horizons for detailed laboratory examination of physical and chemical properties.
- Preparing field notes and reports of the features mapped and observed.

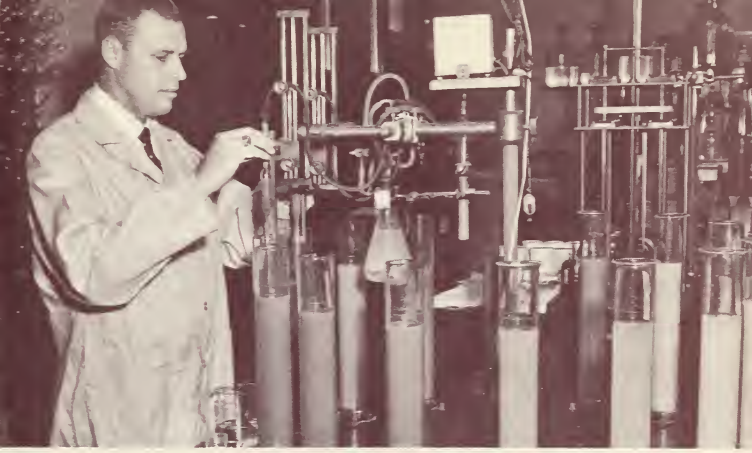
MO–1861

Soil-Survey Interpretation

Predicting the behavior of different kinds of soil under defined situations, especially systems of soil use and methods of manipulation.

- Collecting and summarizing data on adaptabilities, yields, and responses of plants to different systems of management.
- Predicting yields of cultivated crops, grasses, and trees that can be produced under defined systems of management.
- Grouping soils according to suitability and limitations for different uses such as: cultivated crops and pasture, woodland, range, wildlife, recreation, urban, suburban, industrial developments, sewage- and waste-disposal areas.
- Predicting physical behavior of soils in relation to engineering structures and predicting the location of soil materials suitable for use in construction.

CAL—6902



MD–30324

Soil Investigation (Laboratory and Field)

- Examining soils in many locations.
- Analyzing samples of soil, water, and vegetative materials in the laboratory to determine their physical and chemical properties.
- Conducting studies to further the understanding of soil genesis and morphology.

NEB–1910

Employment Facts

Information.—Ask your college placement officer or postmaster, or write to the nearest Soil Conservation Service office, for the announcement of the SCS soil scientist examination and an application blank.

How to apply.--If you have the right qualifications, fill out the application (Form 57) and mail it as directed in the announcement. No written, assembled examination is required.

Work locations.—SCS soil scientists are stationed at SCS State offices; State agricultural experiment stations; SCS area and work unit offices; and SCS offices at Washington, D.C., and Hyattsville, Md.

Training.—SCS provides excellent opportunities for intensive and specialized training under competent, experienced soil scientists, both on the job and in group-training centers.

Advancement.—SCS has an organized "promotion-from-within" policy. There is a continuous flow upward through the ranks. Soil scientists may stay in professional and specialized soil scientist jobs or, based on their aptitudes and abilities, move into technical administrative positions.

Benefits.—SCS employees are under Federal civil service. Advancement is based wholly on merit. Employees are eligible for many benefits, such as sick and annual leave, periodic salary increases, group life insurance at a nominal rate, disability compensation if injured in line of duty, and liberal retirement annuities.

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